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Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91T01172R000300030005-2

OCI No. 0312  
Copy No. 35

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
5 October 1954

ED

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Comment on air shipment of "heavy metal" reported  
planned for re-export from Helsinki

On 1 October the American embassy in Helsinki reported that Finnish customs officials had blocked the unloading of 1500 kilograms of metals consigned to Kaivola OY, a Finnish forwarding firm, for lack of appropriate import licenses. The shipment had arrived on 30 September aboard a Sabena C-47 aircraft. The metals were said by the crew to be "zinc and nickel" while customs authorities inspecting the cargo described it as "heavy metals" but neither lead nor zinc.

While this combination of circumstances may appear unusual, it is unlikely that any clandestine shipment of embargoed goods to the Soviet bloc was intended. Information passed by the Belgian Foreign Office and relayed on 1 October by the US embassy in Brussels indicates that the material in question consists of spools of tungsten filament for electric bulbs. The filament, now being returned to Paris on the Sabena plane, was sold by Emimetal, Paris, to the Helsinki firm for resale in South America. This account of the situation appears to be reliable.

Although the USSR and its satellites import tungsten wire and filament in considerable quantities, it is unlikely that bloc traders would employ this method in their procurement. Purchases from Sweden, a country not formally bound by COCOM's embargo on tungsten shipments, are more direct and more dependable.

The Finnish government has been scrupulously correct in forestalling known efforts by bloc countries to employ Finnish traders as middlemen in illegal procurement. Virtually none of the bloc's clandestine transactions have involved Finnish firms. 25X1



State Dept. review completed



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Assistant Director  
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Class. Changed To:	TS S (C)
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	13 July 78
By:	

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